



**Soroptimist  
International  
Edinburgh  
news  
notes  
anecdotes**

Issue 176

February 2019



Nearly 80,000 members in 124 countries

Divided into four Federations as follows:



8,000 members, 352 clubs in 29 countries



Soroptimist International  
of the Americas

30,000 members in 20 countries



Federation of Europe

34,000 members in 62 countries

Federation of the South West Pacific  
Formed in 1978, our newest Federation  
now has members in 13 countries.

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As with many in the Federations we have  
strong links with the UN.

**We have a Vision**

**We have a Mission**

Throughout all this we **serve** and  
make **friendships** too.

We can do this locally, right through to  
international level, by collaborating with  
Soroptimists anywhere in the world.

Closest to home - our daughter club,  
SI Dunfermline, chartered in 1950.

Our friendship links are with clubs in  
Cockermouth and District, Kiev (UKR),  
Caldwell (USA), Groveland (USA), Sioux  
Falls (USA), Riverside (USA).

2018 our new link with SI Madurai, India.

One of our members, Sally, works in Cluj  
Napoca, Romania. *“From small  
beginnings ....”* From a small room  
helping physically disabled young people  
in Cluj, to the Lamont Centre and Sports  
Club, Sally has created the opportunity for  
disabled people to have a chance in life.  
She is now President of Romania’s  
Paralympic Committee and has seen medal  
success for some of her team.

Recently we have been visited by  
Soroptimists from:

New Zealand – Andrea and her son.

SI Speyer, Germany – the club was 9 years  
old when we were 90.

Later this year we will meet SI Winterthur.

And the next SI Convention takes place in  
Kuala Lumpur in July – there is a vision, a  
mission, projects to be considered and  
always friendships to be made or renewed.

**Ask me why I am a Soroptimist**

**- the answer is obvious.**

**SI Edinburgh- Business Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
held at the Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel**

**Present** President Gari (in the chair) plus 11 members plus three 3 S Fund Applicants, see below.

**Apologies** for absence were received from 8 members.

**Vision and Mission statement**

This was read by Isabel.

**3 S Fund Applications**

Marjory introduced Iona who gave a brief presentation on her planned trip to Honduras with Project Trust. She is to teach English and hopes to use her interest in art and music to stimulate cultural exchange and to promote respect for women. She also plans to set up a choir to teach English through the medium of music.

Gari introduced Freya and Adwoa, members of the University students run charity Edinburgh Global Partnership (EGP) who are going to Kerala in India for two months in the summer to help to establish fish ponds for a number of families.

After the presentations It was agreed to support Iona. But Pat advised that she had explained to Freya and Adwoa that there might not be sufficient funds to support this project this year. However, Pat will take the application to the next meeting of the 3 S Fund on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February to find if any support could be found for these students - not necessarily financial. Pat explained since last year group applications were eligible. The committee is exploring the best use of funds for single and group applications. No action to be taken on this application until after 16.2.19. A relationship with EGP in future was mooted. \* see post-meeting note at the end of these minutes.

**News of members.** Lindsey is making good progress after her operation. Morag is home and seems to be coping. Mary requests to have a hard copy of the SIGBI magazine. (There will be two copies sent to each club after the magazine goes on line, for distribution as appropriate.)

**Appointment of Auditor** at the January Business meeting Gari indicated that Yani Yaatineri would be willing to audit the SIE account so she now has to be approved by the club members.

Proposer: Gari            Seconder: Pat Black

Myint Su to contact Yani to arrange audit.

**Treasurer's report** Given by Isabel. The £145 collected at the January business meeting has been sent to the International President's Appeal. (IPA) A second opportunity will be given to donate as some people had not been able to contribute in January. This extra contribution to be forwarded to IPA to increase the club's 2018-2019 contribution.

The £30 subscription to United Nations Association, (UNA) Edinburgh has been paid.

Since January £69 has been transferred to the 3 S Fund making the total to date since April £161.

Isabel thanked those who regularly donated to this fund and distributed smarties tubes for the collection of 20p coins to those interested. Myint Su to confirm to the cost of meeting room for next year to allow us to set the annual Subscription.

**Correspondence**

Christine reminded members of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch for SI Hamilton on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, the fund-raising Barbershop for SI Falkirk on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, and SI Paisley event for 100 years of Inspiring Women on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Clephane reported she has been in contact with a member of SI Graz who is coming to Edinburgh for six months from April. She hopes to visit the city before then to make arrangements. Hopefully she will contact Clephane then.

Edith drew attention to the visit of Soroptimists from Winterthur club in September 2019 - see previous minutes.

**Scottish Women's Convention on 9<sup>th</sup> March.** A copy of the Region Brochure will be given to all participants. Pat has agreed to take some of our Club brochures.

**Press and Publicity** no report.

**Programme Action** Christine, on behalf of Alison, asked members to forward details of any Programme Action taken during this year since April 2018 to enable Alison to enter the details in the SIGBI database.

A thank you had been received from Cranston Street for Christmas gifts. Anna is planning to give a short talk on Mental Health First Aid at the Region meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**No 63.** Edith reported that the new regulations have been adopted. The building will **not** be sold.

Vote to sell 145 to retain 328 abstain 25. (These numbers included the proxy votes)

As No 63 is continuing £5 shares can now be traded, and the 500 and 2000 clubs have resumed. SI members can hold 10-500 shares. Those members who currently hold less than 10 shares should either purchase the necessary balance, donate their shares to another share holder or club within the next year. Otherwise the shares will revert to No 63. Donations will also be welcome by no 63.

### **Programme**

Isabel, Gari and Nikki are going to meet up to discuss the structure of meetings including the number of Speaker meetings for 2019-2020.

Nikki requested that the Orbit plan be included in the plan.

Treasurer was requested to find out the cost of the venue prior to discussion on club programme

Trish has agreed to collect ideas for speakers to include name subject and contact details. This should reflect the wishes of all the members.

### **Growing our brand.**

Anna said that the Meru Women's Garden produce had been delivered.

She has been in contact with RBS Gogarburn. All the slots for the internal street market for the first business quarter of the year were already allocated. Anna hopes to get a slot in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Business quarter of the year. Thanks to Nikki and Gari for supplying bags for the Jams.

As there are 4,000 staff on the RBS site it is hoped to raise the profile of Soroptimism.

The members agreed to have a partnership with UNA, Edinburgh. Gari and Pat were already supporting UN interns.

### **Membership.**

Isabel apologised as Winifred was unavailable the poster was not completed.

Aurora may be interested in joining the club when she knows what the cost of the Club subscription will be for 2019-2020

### **AOCB**

-Anna reported that there was a very good speaker Liita Lyaloo Cairney Founder of firstperiod.org at the Preparatory Conference for The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

She also showed an interest in Soroptimism.

-Book café for Scottish Love in Action (SLA) in George Watson's College on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 10.30 - 2.30

Tickets £7.50 which covers two books and soup and bread.

- Carolyn has completed the report of SI Edinburgh's 90<sup>th</sup> celebrations. It has been passed to Isabel.

### Date of next meeting

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at the Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel.

- **3S Fund Applications – post meeting note.**

The funds are currently insufficient to support these students. However, the trustees would be considering other ways of supporting applicants. An example could be by giving some educational materials that the students could take with them. The trustees will meet again in April to consider, in more detail, criteria for group applications.

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## Saughton Park Restoration Project

A friend and I were walking along the Water of Leith on a beautiful sunny day in February. We sat on a bench in Saughton Park. I was telling my friend about the talk we had at SI Edinburgh about the history and Restoration of Saughton Park when, who came along and talked to us, but the very speaker who came to talk to us at the club. His name was Peter McDougal who is the Project Development officer for the six-million-pound project for the City of Edinburgh Council. He said that he is going to be very relieved when the builders are finished. The walled garden is still closed to the public. But you can have a peek through the railings. There are tenders out for running the café. He hopes the café will be open in the evenings. Peter is particularly pleased about the installation of a ground source heat pump system, which will be the energy source for the whole site. It will be zero carbon energy for the park, saving an estimate of 72 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year. He hopes to build a micro-hydro scheme in the future. He hopes the park will be fully open by late June. The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society and Friends of Saughton Park have been partners on the restoration.

We are fortunate in Edinburgh to have so many green spaces.

More information can be found on [www.edinburgh.gov.org/saughtonpark](http://www.edinburgh.gov.org/saughtonpark)

*Anna Gordon*  
February 2019

**Pat Black** has put her name forward for election as our next Soroptimist International President. This will be put to the Region on Saturday for their support before being submitted.

We support you, Pat, trust the Region will too and wish you all success. A busy time will lie ahead.

### Dates for Your Diary

#### 2019

Mar	2	SISSR, Kirkintilloch
	13	Business Meeting
	27	Claudia Beamish – “A Woman in the Scottish Parliament”
Apr	10	Business Meeting
	24	AGM
May	8	Business Meeting
June	1	SISSR, Greenpark, Polmont

**Items for SIEnna 177** should be sent, to the editor by 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019

SI Edinburgh web address:  
[www.sigbi.org/edinburgh](http://www.sigbi.org/edinburgh)